

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Project: Egmont Channel, Tampa Bay

INCIDENT REPORT OF SEA TURTLE TAKE BY DREDGING ACTIVITY

Date 04 / 12 / 97

Time(24hr) 0650

Species of Turtle Taken Lepidochelys kempi (Kemp's ridley)

Dredging Site (channel, port, etc.) Tampa Bay, Florida. Egmont Channel Buoys 9-10 and 11-12

Location of Take: Latitude 27°37.00'N Longitude 82°51.04'W

Vessel Name and Company Dredge Stuyvesant, Stuyvesant Dredging Company

Type of Dredging Activity Hopper maintenance dredging

Load # 181 Times: Start 0650 End 0940 Dump 1050

Sampling Method (overflow, inflow, etc.) 100% overflow with a single, large mid skimmer

Samples Recovered From Remaining mid inflow screening

Condition of Screening Front removed; not functioning as viable inflow screening

Draghead Deflector? Yes X No

Condition of Deflector Good

Weather Conditions Skies cloudy, wind SE 15 knots, seas 2-4' Tide 1.7'

Water Temperature: Surface 73°F Column NA C or F (circle one)

Condition of Specimen(s) Sampled Turtle was fresh dead with healthy pink muscle tissue and normal flipper coloration. The shattered but connected specimen included: 45% of carapace (mostly right side), right fore flipper, entire head and neck, a portion of the plastron, viscera and integument without any whole organs.

Measurements-- ****Note: carapace shattered into multiple pieces**

Give estimate of entire carapace dimensions, as well as fragments sampled (in metric when possible, indicate if not):

Head Width 10.7 cm Right Fore Flipper: Length 30.9 cm Width 10.0 cm

Plastron Length NA Width NA Claw 1.0 cm

Carapace S. L. Length 45.2 cm S.L. Width Estimated 46.0 cm

Carapace O.C. Length NA O.C. Width NA

Turtle Tagged? Yes No X No evidence of previous tagging
Tag # Tag Date / /

Comments Size estimates are consistent with a sub-adult or small adult

turtle of underdetermined sex (tail and gonads missing). There was no internal or external evidence of fibropapillomas tumors. The specimen was not suitable for necropsy. After examination by both observers, extensive photographic documentation and weighting the sample was disposed of at the dump site at the completion of load # 182.
Observer's Name Eric Westerman, Cheryl Ryder